

River Derwent Catchment Partnership – Update February 2016

Last year, landowners and organisations living and working in the Yorkshire Derwent catchment were involved in some workshops or on-line surveys run by Icarus, on behalf of the River Derwent Catchment Partnership. The Partnership is hosted by the East Yorkshire Rivers Trust and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, but is open to any organisation, community group or individual with an interest in the sustainable management of the River Derwent and its surrounding landscape.

This email is to update you on what's been happening since then.

Establishing the Partnership:

- Following the work and reports produced by Icarus, the Interim Steering Group for the Partnership has continued to meet to share knowledge, experience and to explore ways of working together as well as ideas for future projects.
- In April, Defra awarded £31,000 to the Catchment Partnership to undertake habitat improvements on the River Sefp, located in the North York Moors National Park. The project involves The Wild Trout Trust, Environment Agency, East Yorkshire Rivers Trust and North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP) and it has been working with land owners to implement simple low-cost measures such as woody debris dams and buffer strips to reduce the amount of sediment getting into the river.
- In November, we appointed a Partnership Facilitation Officer, Karen Saunders, to help take the work of the Partnership forward, establish and formalise the governance structure for the Partnership and organise future meetings of the Interim Steering Group. This is currently a short-term role and we are looking for funding to secure the position for the longer term.

Elsewhere in the catchment, members of the Partnership have also been progressing projects. There are too many to mention here, but include:

The Rye project - The long-standing aspirations for the Rye catchment, which were identified as priorities in the Delivery Plan produced by Icarus for the Derwent Catchment Partnership, are being taken forward by the Rye Group. On their behalf, the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP) and Howardian Hills AONB are developing a significant bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The proposed project aims to address issues of sedimentation and nutrient inputs, encourage natural flood management, enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity benefitting key species such as the albatross, white-clawed crayfish and salmon, and further develop local understanding of and pride in the area's natural heritage.

Potential Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund applications in the North York Moors - The North York Moors National Park Authority is working with landowners and managers in areas including the Upper Rye and Upper Derwent sub-catchments to develop potential applications for the Countryside Stewardship (CS) Facilitation Fund. The Facilitation Fund aims to support a collective, partnership approach across holdings to deliver shared environmental outcomes that go beyond what could have been achieved individually. The applications will aim to deliver multiple objectives, aligned with the CS Statement of Priorities for the area, including enhancing biodiversity, improving water quality, reducing flood risk and protecting the historic environment. If successful, the group of landowners and managers within

a Facilitation Fund area will benefit from support from a facilitator to identify landscape-scale priorities, access training and explore other sources of funding, and they will get a 20% uplift to their CS application scores. To find out more, please contact Ami Walker (a.walker@northyorkmoors.org.uk Tel.01439 772700)

In the news.....

Many of you will have had direct experience of the flooding over Christmas and the New Year – in some places, water has still not drained away. There was a lot of interest in the flooding from the media and increasingly many reports started to focus on the potential for increasing the use of natural flood risk management measures, as part of wider solutions. Natural flood risk management measures – along with a flood storage reservoir on Pickering Beck - are the key component of the Slowing the Flow Project which is designed to protect Pickering and Sinnington from flooding. They were seriously tested over Christmas and in early January and are working as intended. The debate will continue and is something we are looking at within the Derwent Catchment Partnership, as part of a landscape scale approach to catchment management.

Forthcoming events:

Social Media Workshop in Malton on Friday 19th February – Free to attend.

- Could you do more to capitalise on the wildlife and landscapes of our area?
- Do you use social media to promote your cause or business? Are you getting the most from it?
- Are you new to social media and not sure how to get started?

Connecting for Nature, a local biodiversity partnership is running some training to give people an introduction to social media or build upon their current skills. Training, by social media specialist, [Rachel Sutcliffe](#) will include hands-on sessions, supported by Connecting for Nature partners with contributions from Tom Marshall ([Yorkshire Nature Triangle](#)), Steve Race, ([Yorkshire Coast Nature](#)) and Will Watts ([Hidden Horizons](#)) about promotion of our local wildlife and landscapes through social media. To register please email Tim Burkinshaw on tim.burkinshaw@scarborough.gov.uk

Want to get more involved?

Got an idea for a project, want to get involved in volunteering in the Derwent catchment or think there's a particular issue that needs addressing? We would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Karen Saunders at office@eastyorkshirerivertrust.org.uk and help us protect and enhance this amazing landscape.

Stay up to date:

We plan to send out regular newsletters as work progresses on the Partnership and hope you will want to read them. If, however, you would like to unsubscribe, please let me know, and I will remove you from the circulation list. Thank you.

Best wishes,

Karen Saunders
Partnership Facilitation Officer
River Derwent Catchment Partnership